



Enabling people to stay in their homes despite conflict

Dear Friend,

I am in awe of the communities and our volunteers in Darfur. Even while they have been worried about their own families, they have been doing all they can to help children in our villages. Over the past months, they have carried food, medicines and more, to over 100,000 children. And they are not stopping.

This is the miracle of Kids for Kids. Whilst the rest of the world wrings its hands at the seeming impossibility of helping in any way at all in Sudan; where the two warring parties give no believable signs of wanting peace; where other countries' greed for gold and power outstrips their humanity; our quiet determination to help one child at a time has enabled us to find ways to get funds to our volunteers, and for them to ensure it is transformed into life saving aid, from food, to harvests, to health care.

It does not stop there – the years of unceasing violence and government surveillance have made me determined to extend as much help as we can and also to protect, as far as possible, everyone who helps us. We have been providing mosquito nets for years to as many villages as we can. But it must have been challenging for the communities, our Darfurian volunteers and team when I said I would not agree to providing for this desperate need unless we had the name of every single beneficiary. How much easier to provide a truck load to a village leader and for him to select the families – but we have been wrongly accused in the past of our funds being diverted into the purchasing of arms – and the deadly risk that accusation could be to anyone helping Kids for Kids. It took time but I now have the 1700 names of every mother who has a mosquito net for her children. Just imagine: a mother who had no hope of buying anything like a net – however much she dreaded hearing the whine of a mosquito, which carries not only the risk of malaria, but also yellow fever, chikungunya and dengue fever – now she can give protection to her little ones.

Here in the UK, there have been problems too – we had high hopes that we would be able to appoint a CEO this summer to take over the administration and fundraising which I have done for so long, but we now start the search again. Please will you help? We are advertising now. The Job Description is on our website: kidsforkids.org.uk/join-our-team

If you have read my Chairman's Report for our recent Annual Accounts you will know that, like so many others in this country, we have suffered a **cyber attack**. We had lost our database. I took legal advice and thankfully my determination to only retain essential information has meant that those who have made generous donations or supported us are not compromised in any way. I am pleased to say, thanks to two of the most incredible volunteers, we have managed to reconstruct all of our data, and nothing has been lost. But it has taken a lot of time and worry.

What else can you do? Please come to meet us - two wonderful invitations! The first is our fantastic **Fishing Day on Saturday 11th October**. If you have ever wondered what it would be like to catch your own supper – now is your chance! But it is not easy! The Duke of Northumberland has



once again given us an exclusive day's fishing on the beautiful Park Lake at Albury (near Guildford). We have skilled fishermen to help you. We provide all the tackle if you need it, plus volunteers join me to make sure you are well fed from first light to dusk! For both beginners and seasoned fishermen this is a real treat. Do come! Children aged 10 up are very welcome – come and join my grandsons! kidsforkids.org.uk/event/fly-fishing-2025

The second invitation is to join our beloved Patron Dame Joanna Lumley and other celebrities at this year's **Candlelit Christmas Concert**. It is on **Thursday 4th December** in London – your invitation is enclosed.

Also enclosed is a leaflet to remind people that **to Give a Goat**, or a **Kids Kitchen Kit** is the absolute best gift you could ever give anyone – and we give you (or your loved ones) an individually designed **Christmas Gift Certificate**. Great for last minute presents too by the way! Please can you ask your church, your office or your favourite coffee shop to display the leaflet? **Please let me know if you need more – we are just waiting for your help!**

EARLY WARNING! We will be 25 next March – yes it's 25 years since I met that little 9 year old struggling with his heavy water can. His children now care for their goats and a new tree nursery is being started in their village. Soon they will have shade to sit under. Please can you help us to celebrate by holding a **Tea Party**? We will send you bunting, invitations, recipes for my favourite cakes and, of course, balloons. The news from Darfur continues to be troubling, but in our Kids for Kids villages there is real hope. Please also let us know of schools, churches or rotary clubs who might like to hear how they can help? Let's celebrate all you have enabled us to provide so that families stay together in their own homes and are not forced by necessity to flee across the world.

KIDS FOR KIDS IS 25 – but there is still so much to do! Please help us launch our next 25 years.

Happy Christmas dear friends,



**Patricia Parker OBE
Founder**

